

FORWARD, NORTH BORNEO.

A new enterprise has lately sprung up in British North Borneo which promises great things for the future of that thriving colony. We refer to tobacco planting. Our latest advices speak in most encouraging terms of the success that has attended the efforts of the pioneers of this industry, and state that every steamer brings to Sandakan planters from Deli and other tobacco growing districts in Sumatra, who are anxious to secure concessions of land.

Last year's crop of tobacco in British North Borneo has been reported on by Mr. H. Herschel, of the firm of Dinger and Herschel, the well known tobacco brokers of Amsterdam, who testifies to the excellent quality of the leaf. This year's crop is looking well, and it is a fact worthy of consideration that over \$3,000,000 have already been invested—chiefly by planters and others who have large interests in Deli, where the ground is becoming gradually exhausted and where many difficulties and obstructions are placed in the way of planters by the Dutch authorities.

The climate of British North Borneo seems to be most suitable for the production of tobacco, and as labour is plentiful and cheap—and will be more plentiful and cheaper when direct steam communication between China and Sandakan has been re-established—there seems to be every reason to anticipate that the handsome dividends paid by the Deli Company and the Amsterdam Deli Company will be equalled in North Borneo. For some years past the Companies named have paid their shareholders from 100 to 150 per cent on the capital invested, and their shares are not on the market—they cannot be purchased.

Arrangements have at last been made for direct steam communication between Hongkong and Sandakan, and the steamship *Memorandum* of Holt's line, chartered for two years, has been specially fitted for the trade. We have strongly advocated the adoption of this policy for several years, recognising that the prosperity of North Borneo mainly depended on that colony being in close commercial relationship with Hongkong and China, and we feel assured that a considerable amount of capital and enterprise from this part of the world will now find remunerative investment in tobacco planting and other industries.

We have been induced to draw attention to the very greatly improved commercial prospects of North Borneo as we are informed that a joint stock enterprise under the name of the *North Borneo Tobacco Company* will have a capital of \$1,750,000, and will take over five thousand acres of land to be utilised for the cultivation of tobacco and pepper. Mr. E. F. Abrahamson, of Messrs. E. F. Abrahamson & Co., the well-known timber merchants and contractors of Sandakan, who has been one of the most successful pioneers in North Borneo, is the moving spirit in the undertaking, which has been supported by a number of our most influential residents. Two thirds of the shares have already been subscribed for, and the remainder will be offered to the public. Full particulars will doubtless be announced in a day or two, and while it gives us satisfaction to know that the views we expressed years ago regarding North Borneo are in a fair way of being realised and that the new colony is at last moving with the times.

THE FLOQUET-BOULANGER DUEL.

The following accounts of the hostile encounter between the French Prime Minister and General Boulanger, with other important particulars, which we extract from American papers, will be read with interest.

PARIS, July 13th.

Boulanger and Floquet fought a duel at 10 o'clock this morning. Boulanger was seriously wounded, receiving a sword thrust in the throat. Floquet's injuries are slight, in the hand and left breast.

The flow of blood from Boulanger's wound was heavy, and a faintness feared.

The duel was fought in the garden of Count Dillon's country place at Neuilly.

Boulanger was accompanied by Messrs. Le Herisse and Laissant. Floquet was seconded by Messrs. Clemenceau and Ferri.

The duel lasted only four minutes. Boulanger, excited and nervous, made several passes at Floquet, who did not seem excited. Finally Boulanger made a desperate lunge at Floquet, who thrust his sword out and held it so. At the same instant Boulanger was run through the neck. He staggered, clapped his hands to his wound, and fell unconscious in the arms of his seconds. The wound was bandaged and the General immediately carried away.

The physician who is attending Boulanger has issued a bulletin regarding his condition, which says there is a deep wound in the right side of the General's neck, and it causes marked difficulty in his respiration. The doctor is unable to give an opinion as to what turn the case may take.

The Republican journals, in commenting on the discussion in the Chamber of Deputies last night between Mr. Floquet and General Boulanger, say that the General Boulanger has entered upon a plebiscite campaign, and that the struggle between the republic and a dictatorship has begun. Universal suffrage, they say, will do justice to Cæsarism.

La Lanterne gives notice that it definitely severs all connection with Boulangerism.

The Conservative organs commend Boulanger's attitude, and ascribe to him the honours of yesterday's scene in the Chamber.

Members of the Ministry awaited the result of the duel at the residence of Floquet, where he received a perfect ovation.

Only a small crowd was awaiting the return of Boulanger.

The eye-witnesses of the duel say that Boulanger fought desperately and displayed much feeling. He tried very hard to kill his antagonist and threw himself again and again on Floquet, making desperate lunges with his sword at every onslaught.

Both duellists stopped at the request of the seconds, when Floquet's hand was cut.

Another account says Boulanger and Floquet were both greatly excited, the latter while as a sheet during the fighting.

Boulanger forced the fighting. Floquet was very awkward, a reason for surprise, considering the impetuous attack that he was not killed. Boulanger received his throat wound through carelessness. He made a desperate lunge at Floquet in the third encounter. Floquet's sword was kept pointed straight at General Boulanger, who actually ran his neck directly on to the steel. The blood spurted from the wound in a stream. By the Government the wound of the personification of the idea of revenge.

The agitation increases, and there is great excitement now. The duel occurred under an old elm covered with ivy, where a cow was peacefully browsing until she was driven away by the arrival of the combatants. She remained at one side, a patient witness.

After the General's wound had been cared for by the doctor, he was able to walk into the house unassisted, although the front of the white shirt in which he had fought was dyed with blood. The boulevardiers, the affair is the only topic of conversation. The common expression is

that Boulanger has been hit hard in allowing himself to be wounded by a mere "pikin"—the Parisian slang for civilian.

Boulanger's physician, Dr. Monod, confesses his inability to predict what turn Boulanger's hurt may take.

Mme. Floquet knew nothing of the duel till it was done. Among the comments on the duel is mentioned Rochfort's:—"How wonderful that the youngest General of the army let himself be poked by a barrister nearly 60 years old."

The streets are crowded this evening and everybody is discussing the encounter. Shows of rage and against Boulanger are heard. Boulanger has issued a circular which says:—"I have carried out the mandate of half a million electors and demanded a revision of the Chambers. I was replied to by a vote of censure. I ask you to assert the claims of the people against the existence of the Chambers. I shall try to visit the department and shall ask you to vote for me. Don't vote for party, but for independence at home." There is no doubt but Boulanger's condition is serious.

At the second encounter Boulanger was slightly wounded in the leg, and Floquet received a cut on the right hand. After resting, the men renewed the fighting for the third time. Boulanger then received the wound in the throat which put an end to the encounter.

The second day made a formal report on the state of the participants: Boulanger received a serious wound in the neck, and Floquet received wounds on the hand, chest, and foot, all slight. Boulanger was also wounded in the arm.

NEW YORK, July 13th.

A Paris special cable to the *Mail and Express* says:—"Boulanger had carefully prearranged the scene in the Chamber and the concomitant incidents. He was nearly 10 o'clock before he entered the floor and began to read his speech. Like all his utterances in Parliament, it had been written out beforehand, and was accurately read. At the identical time he was delivering himself of his motion for a revision, the newsboys in the street outside were crying Boulanger's organ, the *Presse*, which contained what purported to be a full account of the sitting of the Chamber and a verbatim report of the speech, the article concluding with the statement that the revision proposed having been rejected, Boulanger gave in his resignation."

The Boulanger duel causes much excitement in the French colonies here and in other Eastern cities. General surprise is expressed at the outcome, Boulanger being reputedly an expert swordsman. The resident French Consul speaks cautiously, but he shares the general surprise that Boulanger has been done up by Floquet.

PARIS, July 13th.

Boulanger's wound is a dangerous incision in the neck. It is two and one half inches deep and the flesh is torn and jagged. Floquet's sword-point narrowly missed the jugular vein. Inflammation is reported.

An authentic report says Floquet's sword penetrated six centimetres at point between the jugular vein and the carotid artery.

Boulanger is restless and feverish. His breathing is badly affected. The sword thrust, it is found, severed the phrenic nerve. Boulanger slept considerably during the afternoon and early evening under the influence of morphia. His convulsive gasps for air cause the physicians frequent alarms as suffocation is feared.

The Gambetta statue, in the Place du Carrousel, was unveiled this afternoon. Floquet, the Prime Minister, who fought with Boulanger in the morning, delivered the oration.

The confusion caused in the French Chamber of Deputies by General Boulanger, and the serious duel in which he participated afterward, has again brought the name of the distinguished officer before the world, and with it the name of Floquet, the President of the Council of Ministers, who was the challenger of Boulanger. Below will be found sketches of the lives and careers of the two men, who met upon the "field of honour" on Count Dillon's estate, and fought with sabres until Boulanger was the recipient of a wound that may bring his brilliant, yet at times erratic, career to a termination.

General Boulanger, who by his encounter with M. Floquet, has added another chapter to a record already teeming with sensational incidents, was born at Rennes on April 29th, 1837. His full name is George Ernest Jean Marie Boulanger. He entered the service January 15th, 1855, as a pupil of the special military school of St. Cyr. He was made a sub-lieutenant in 1856. His advancement in the profession was unusually rapid. In 1857 he took part in the Kabyle expedition; and in 1859, he was wounded at Turigo, and received the decoration of the Legion of Honour for gallant service in China, in 1862. In 1860 he became a Lieutenant, and in 1862 a Captain.

In the Franco-German war of 1870 he rose from Captain to Colonel. At the battle of Champagne he was wounded. During the siege of Paris he commanded the 114th Regiment. While serving as Colonel of the 114th in 1871 he was severely wounded at Bapaume.

In 1880 he was appointed Brigadier-General, and was afterward sent to the United States as head of the mission on the Centenary of Independence at Yorktown. In 1884, after being attached to the War Office some time, he returned to the 114th Division in Africa.

He returned in twenty months, and on January 7th, 1885, he was called to the post of Minister of War in the De Freycinet Cabinet. It is from this period that General Boulanger began to make himself conspicuous in the eyes of the world. He achieved a signal political success by causing the defeat of the Radical Three Year Recruiting Bill, a measure that was designed to do away with the volunteer system and establish a universal military system.

He made himself popular with the soldiers by expunging from the regulations things that were received a perfect ovation.

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The principals then parted with compliments. Feeling was divided regarding Boulanger. By his adherents he was looked upon as the "hero of the hour," and by his enemies he was cordially hated. At last he resigned from the Cabinet and took command of the Thirteenth Army Corps. Still General Boulanger was looked upon as a man who, inspired by selfish and ambitious motives, intended to become President of France, and it was even boldly asserted by some that he was striving to gain power in the interests of Bonaparte.

In 1887 Boulanger was elected substitute for the Chamber of Deputies in the Department of Nord. From the moment of his entrance into the Chamber began the scenes which culminated in the sensational affair of last Thursday, followed by the duel with Mr. Floquet, the President of the Chamber. The programme of Boulanger—dissolution of the Chamber and revision of the constitution—had supporters in nearly all the parties. His strained relations with ex-President Ferry arose from a recent action taken to repeat.

General Boulanger, now over 50 years of age, is a man of fine presence, although his full beard does not give him a military physique.

Charles Thomas Floquet, President of the Chamber of Deputies, was born at Saint Jean-de-Luz on the 5th of October, 1838. He studied at the Collège de Louis, and was also a scholar at the Administrative School in 1847. He was admitted to Paris Bar in 1851, and was engaged in a number of political cases. He rapidly rose at the Bar, and became all the while a Republican leader under the second empire.

After the fall of Napoleon he was tried at Tours for the murder of Victor Noir. M. Floquet pleaded successfully for damages on behalf of the family of the victim; and he was also successful in obtaining the acquittal of M. Comant, who was tried at Paris in 1870 for participation in a plot against the Government.

He was also connected with the press, and edited the *Siècle* and *Temps*. He was a candidate for the Legislature in 1864, but was defeated, as he was also in 1869.

He was, however, more successful in 1871, and was elected Representative of the Seine in the National Assembly, but resigned his seat because he was accused of having relations with the Commune. He contradicted these accusations in the *Gambetta*. The Government arrested him at Biarritz, and he was confined at Pau until June, 1871. In April, 1872, he was elected to the Municipal Council, and again in 1874. After the Act of the 16th of May, 1877, he was one of the 363 Deputies who refused a vote of confidence in the Ministry of M. de Broglie.

M. Floquet, who is a fine orator, at a public meeting held in Havre in 1880, made an energetic speech favouring the separation of church and state, and also for the suppression of the Senes.

In 1881 he was elected Vice-President of the Chamber. He was the principal author of the proposition to expel all the members belonging to the royal families, which had reigned in France, and to deprive them of all political rights. On the fall of M. Ferry from power, and the accession of M. Brisson, M. Floquet was chosen as President of the Chamber of Deputies.

M. Floquet became wealthy some years ago by his marriage to the grand daughter of Charlotte Buff-Giethen Charlotte. Kestner. Mme. Floquet's father, made a very great fortune in the manufacture of chemical products at Thun, in Alsace. Mme. Floquet's mother has been a shareholder of the *Rhin-Meuse* *Franchise*, the paper founded by Gambetta, from the beginning. She is for the divorce, and therefore a military policy. Her will is the common law of all her five daughters and their husbands.

LONDON, July 14th.

The Paris boulevards were thronged to-day with people celebrating the national holiday. The recent Floquet-Boulanger duel was the chief topic of conversation among the numerous groups of excited talkers. It appears that Floquet had not touched a sword until recently, when his physicians advised him to resume his practice. His supposed lack of skill in the use of the sword induced Boulanger's seconds to admit the Premier was the insulted party, and consequently he had the choice of weapons. Had Boulanger's seconds been aware of his recent practice they would undoubtedly have insisted upon pistols being the weapons.

Throughout the combat M. Floquet was cool and collected, while his opponent was very flushed and excited. He rushed madly upon M. Floquet, evidently meaning to kill him if possible.

The members of the Cabinet who were waiting the Premier's return from the duel were intensely agitated, and were overjoyed on seeing him unhurt.

The *Lanterne*'s description of Boulanger is followed by a marked change in popular opinion, which was plainly shown at the unveiling of Gambetta's statue yesterday and in the streets to-day. The General is not renowned as a duelist. His several affairs have given him a bad record, and this last affair has completely bereft him of the character of a brave hero and popular idol.

PARIS, July 14th.

The physicians report that Boulanger passed a good night. He has four in attendance. It is expected that they will prevent inflammation in the throat wound.

It is reported this afternoon that the physicians have to keep the wounded man reclining in an arm chair. The danger of tetanus continues great and causes the utmost concern. He passed a good night without fever.

Dr. Labbe believes Boulanger will be cured in a fortnight. He says the danger of complications and phlegm of the neck is possible, which would endanger life. The doctors consider it a miracle Boulanger escaped a mortal wound. He suffers much pain. Several friends called to-day. He was able to converse and also able to take some bouillon soup.

General Boulanger is resting well. There is no fever. Dr. Labbe said to-night:—"My patient is much better. He had no difficulty in breathing, and will be about in a few days."

To-day's Advertisements.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

THE following Notice to Mariners is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th August, 1888.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

LYEMUN PASS.

A BUOY will be moored in the Lyemun Pass for about 20 days from the 20th instant. Its position will be about 280 yards inside the Western Boundary of the Pass and about 320 yards from its Northern shore.

R. MURRAY RUMSEY,
Ret. Comdr., R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

Harbour Department,
Hongkong, 18th August, 1888.

To-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

POSITIVELY LAST NIGHT.

THIS EVENING.

THE AMERICAN MUSICAL COMEDY AND OPERA COMPANY.

Directors: Mr. PEMBERTON W. WILLARD. Mr. JOHN F. SHERIDAN.

Will appear as above in GILBERT and SULLIVAN'S latest London Opera, "RUDDIGORE."

Positively Farewell Performance.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Robin Oakapple, "A Young Farmer".....Mr. JOHN F. SHERIDAN.

Richard Dauntless "His Foster-Brother".....CHARLES FISHER.

Sir Despard Margatroyd "Of Riddigore".....A. SUTCH.

Old Adam Goolbeard "Robin's Faithful Servant".....WHIFFEN CRIPPS.

Sir Roderic "The Twenty-first Baronet".....H. M. IMANO.

Rose Maybuds "A Village Maiden".....Miss MAUDE HARR.

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ACT. I.—FISHING VILLAGE OF REDDERING, CORNWALL.

ACT. II.—PICTURE GALLERY IN RUDDIGORE'S CASTLE.

Conductor.....Mr. J. A. ROBERTSON.

SEATS MAY NOW BE RESERVED.

Prices \$3, \$2, and \$1.

Box Plan at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S, LD.

N.B.—All accounts against the Company must be presented not later than Saturday, as the Company leaves for Shanghai by English Mail.

All communications to PEMBERTON W. WILLARD, Hongkong Hotel.

Opening 18th August, 1888.

CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND OTHER CONNECTING RAILWAY LINES & STEAMERS.

THE British Steamship.

"DUKE OF WESTMINSTER."

3726 Tons Register, Turner, Commander, will be despatched for VANCOUVER, B.C. and SAN FRANCISCO, via KOBE and YOKOHAMA, on WEDNESDAY, the 29th August, at THREE P.M.

To be followed by the S.S. "PANTHIA" on 13th September, and S.S. "ABYSSINIA" on 4th October.

Connection will be made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports, and at Vancouver with Pacific Coast Points by the regular Steamers of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company and other Steamers.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—
To Vancouver and Victoria.....(Mex.)\$160.00
To San Francisco.....175.00
To all Common Ports in Canada.....230.00
To Liverpool.....300.00
To London.....305.00

To other European Ports at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese and Japanese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices, addressed to Mr. D. E. BROWN, District Freight Agent, Vancouver, B.C.

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. on the 28th August.

All Parcels must be sent to our Office and should be marked to address in full; and the same will be received by us until 5 P.M. the day previous to sailing.

For information as to Passage or Freight, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 18th August, 1888.

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE.

THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC AND OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

THE Steamship "BELGIC"

will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 8th September, at THREE P.M.

Connection will be made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports.

All PARCEL PACKAGES should be marked to address in full; and the same will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—
To San Francisco.....\$200.00
To San Francisco and return.....350.00
available for 6 months.....
To Liverpool.....325.00
To London.....330.00

To other European Ports at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight, or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 504, Queen's Road Central.

C. D. HARMAN, Agent.

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